

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 54/082/2003

10 September 2003

Further Information on UA 220/03 (AFR 54/062/2003, 18 July 2003) Fear for safety/incommunicado detention/possible prisoners of conscience

| | | |
|--------------|--|----------------------------|
| SUDAN | Zahir Mohamed Musa (m), aged 34 |] |
| | Osman Ibrahim (m), aged 31 |] environmentalists |
| | Pakinam Saad Eddin (f, corrected), aged 38] | |
| | Mohamed Hajana (m) |] |

All of those named above have now been released. They were arrested on 13 and 16 July in the town of Sinja, central Sudan and detained without charge for several days, while they were organising a workshop on the EU-ACP Cotonou agreement (a treaty between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific States, to which Sudan is a party). They were reportedly released after intervention of European Union representatives in Sudan.

Pakinam Saad Eddin was released on 23 July in Sinja and transferred to Khartoum on 24 July by the security forces. Mohamed Hajana was released on 24 July. Zahir Mohamed Musa and Osman Ibrahim were released a few days later, reportedly at the beginning of August, in Khartoum. They had reportedly been transferred from Sinja to an office of the security forces in Khartoum North.

The four were reportedly not ill-treated by the security forces. They were interrogated and accused of distributing pamphlets against the Sudanese government. It seems that they were arrested because they refused the request of a government official to postpone the date of the workshop in Sinja. Amnesty International considered them to be prisoners of conscience, held solely for their peaceful activities, while they were in detention.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. No further action is required from the network.